WRL News

Number 204 War Resisters League Jan.—Feb., 1978

MfS National Conference

By Ed Hedemann

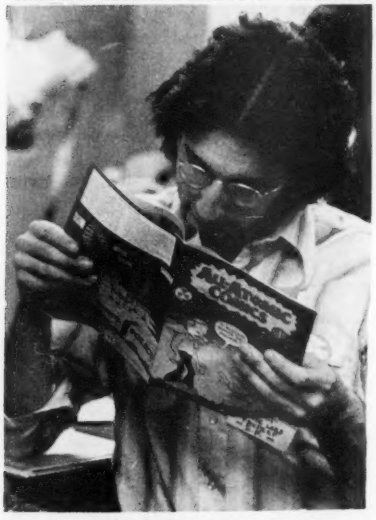
Food, sleep, and time were not in excess. Energy, hassles, and enthusiasm were.

Conference organizers expected 200 participants, were prepared for 350, and were deluged with over 400 people from 34 states.

The purpose of the Conference was to plan for the Spring activities, establish a permanent and responsive decision-making structure, and help clarify the politics of the Mobilization.

The Conference was the first MfS event which clearly established the strength and existence of the network. Consequently, the Conference provided a terrific boost to those present.

Opening December 2 at the University of Chicago's Center for Continuing Education, the Conference began with a plenary session featuring Australian pediatrician Dr. Helen Caldicott. Caldicott gave a rousing speech on the dangers of radiation and our need to actively oppose it. All the speakers expressed a distrust of government officials and stressed the necessity of taking to the streets. The rest of the sessions tended to alternate workshops with plenaries.



Steve Ladd, WRL/West, bones up on nuclear power.

Conference Plenary Session. Photos by Grace Hedemann.

Some of the tensions which were present not only reflected real political differences but also misunderstandings. Nuclear power was such an issue. Some in MfS see nuclear power as important but secondary to the problem of nuclear weapons, and vise versa for others. However, the Conference provided a very useful forum to help bridge those differences. For example, the Conference accepted a resolution put forward by nuclear power activist Sam Lovejoy endorsing next year's occupations at nuclear power facilities.

Some tensions centered around several structural proposals and a resolution supporting the Barnwell occupation. The resolution asked MfS endorsement of the Barnwell reprocessing plant occupation in South Carolina this Spring. In addition, the organizers wanted Barnwell to be declared a national action on par with the Rocky Flats (Colorado) bomb plant action, which is already being billed as a national demonstration. One of the problems was that the two actions are scheduled at the same time. Furthermore the Barnwell organizers do not want to raise the nuclear weapons issue for fear of alienating potential support in South Carolina. In spite of this, the Barnwell action was endorsed by the MfS.

The restructuring of the Mobilization basically went in two directions—towards decentralization and towards consensus decision-making. The National Conference is the highest decision-making body of the Mobilization. However the next one is scheduled for next September. In the interim, the Coordinating Committee will meet

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3 times to carry out the Conference decisions.

The strength of the Coordinating Committee is based on 13 regional representatives. In addition, six organizations (WILPF, FOR, CALC, Critical Mass, Eastern Federation, and the People's Alliance), the task force convenors and the two coordinators—WRL Chairwoman Norma Becker and AFSC national disarmament staffperson Terry Provance are all represented.

Movement minstrels Charlie King and Court Dorsey leading the Conference in song.

The current task forces include one on Save Our Communities, the UN Action, International, Special Energy Projects, Personnel, Labor, Women, Finance, Media, Gay, Second Conference, the Arms Race, Religious, Resources, Special Weapons Projects, and Students.

David McReynolds then chaired the international plenary which featured Jimmy Durham of the Native American movement who appropriately welcomed the two foreign guests, Juan Roca from Spain, and Peggy Duff from Britain. Juan, speaking of the mass nonviolent movement against nuclear power in Spain, brought the audience to its feet when he closed his brief remarks with an appeal for international solidarity. Peggy, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Disarmament and Peace, emphasized the needs to get the movement into the streets.

A mass legal demonstration is scheduled for Saturday May 27 at the United Nations. A lot of discussion at the Conference centered on whether there should also be a civil disobedience action at the UN, sponsored by the Mobilization. WILPF came into the Conference with a position paper and people stating "...any civil disobedience in New York could sound the death knell for disarmament." They made certain that every appropriate workshop and caucus had people in it arguing that CD or direct action could be interpreted as an anti-UN gesture and that it would alienate potential allies in this country as well as governments of the non-aligned countries.

After the caucuses on the UN action met, a plenary hotly debated the issue and finally passed a resolution which did little to clear up the controversy. What does seem to be clear is that MfS will not sponsor CD on May 27 opposite the UN. It is not clear whether this precludes MfS sponsorship of CD some other time during the Special Session near the UN, or whether there may be CD elsewhere in New York on May 27, or whether CD will have to be sponsored by a grouping other than the Mobilization. Furthermore, there was confusion over the use by some of the term "direct action" in place of "civil disobedience." Hopefully, clarity will come relatively soon as the task forces and Coordinating Committee meet to sift through everything which came out of the Conference.

Though this two-day Conference was filled with four-days worth of meetings, the sessions were made easier with the presence of several fine singers, a number of films and slide shows, and a great spirit of comraderie. The Mobilization for Survival has come a long way since its first meeting nine months ago.

Ed Hedemann is on the WRL national staff.

Support the People of Southern Africa

by William Douthard

South Africa, Rhodesia, Namibia, the last bastions of flagrant, repressive, racist apartheid are on the run. These countries are becoming politically and militarily isolated, with increasing people pressure on trade and extrenal investors. These three white-run, black majority countries, are now becoming shrill in their attempts to fend off mounting demands for simple justice for their majority populations. The pressure, demands for majority rule, demands for the granting immediately of basic freedoms, must continue to intensify, to visibly demonstrate a rising impatience with racist dilly-dallying to avoid black majority rule.

Immediately after Steve Biko's death, WRL convened a meeting of other national organizations to discuss ideas for concerted action which would help surface mass public solidarity with the oppressed peoples of Southern Africa. On November 28, 1977, 33 people from approximately 20 organizations came together

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Saving Our Communities: March 26 - April 2

By David McReynolds

When we approach the Federal Budget we have—almost all of us—gotten into two extremely bad habits, reflecting sloppy thinking. The first habit is to assume that the money the government doles out to housing, the military, welfare, the military, transportation, the military, etc., is *their* money. After all, we don't ever see the money—it is missing from our checks at the end of each week. And so when we talk about "transferring funds" from one project to another, such as from nuclear weapons to daycare centers, we sometimes sounds as if we were asking a favor. One thing must really be understood: no government ever generated the money it spends—all government funds come from taxing *our* income. This is equally true whether the government is socialist or capitalist. It is a point of elemental economics on which Marxists and followers of Adam Smith are fully agreed.

Therefore it is not with a sense of timid pleading that we approach the government, but with the sound of rage and fury that *our* money is spent to subsidize military spending while the urban and rural needs of the nation are not met. We aren't politely suggesting President Carter shift his priorities—we are going to raise holy hell with *any* President who presumes to spend *our* tax funds subsidizing the military.

Second, there is somehow an impression that military spending, while it might be immoral, is good for the economy. This notion may have gotten started during World War II, when military spending pulled the country out of the Great Depression. But the economic reality, on which *all* rational economists are agreed, Marxists and followers of Adam Smith, is that military spending is almost unique in that it is one of the very few ways in which resources are almost totally wasted. By its very nature, military spending drains goods and services out of the economy without returning a single tangible asset beyond what we call "national security" (i.e., the ability to utterly destroy the planet). It is invariably inflationary. More jobs can be created by almost any other kind of spending—and almost any other kind of spending returns positive gains to the society. Example: suppose the approximately two hundred billion dollars spent in Vietnam (the figure is actually closer to six hundred billion when we count in future veterans benefits, interest on the federal debt created, etc.) had been spent on housing. We would have generated *more* jobs *plus* decent housing for just about every American. Or suppose we had spent it on rebuilding the disgraceful national rail service—we would today have the kind of modern railways that Japan and Europe have, supplying rapid transit at low cost with great savings in fuel.

These two points are necessary background for the SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES week of the Mobilization for Survival, a week which must be organized in every town and city in America during the period of March 26 to April 2. Let each community examine its true needs—daycare centers, recreation for the elderly, needed medical service, housing, mass transit, fire or police services, etc. In city after city these essential services are being cut back in order to feed the Pentagon. We will need to organize *locally* to get churches, trade unions, student associations, women's organizations, the elderly, minority groups, etc., involved in letting Congress hear us very clearly when we say the military budget must be drastically slashed and federal funds—*our* funds, *our* tax money—be shifted directly and immediately into areas of investment that will generate new jobs

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MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL
PROJECTED TIMELINE

January/February	**regional and local conferences**
March 26 - April 2	**Save Our Communities Week**
April 15/16	**Tax Day activities**
April 28 - 30	**Rocky Flats, Colorado, Action**
April 29 - May 1	**Barnwell, South Carolina, Action**
May 3	**Sun Day**
May	**Local Mini-Religious Convocations**
May 27	**United Nations Demonstration in NYC** **West Coast Demonstration**
June	**Religious Convocation for Survival in NYC**
June/July	**regional and local meetings to prepare for second MfS Conference**
August 6 - 9	**local actions**
September	**National Conference of MfS**

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and restore full services to the urban areas.

From a pacifist point of view the Transfer Amendments that will be before Congress at that time are far too limited—we want to abolish the entire military structure, not just cut it by ten or twenty billion dollars. But from the standpoint of pressing human need—particularly for the jobless, the minority groups, women, the elderly—even a transfer of as little as ten or twenty billion dollars to the civilian sector of the federal budget will be crucial.

We will have the number of the Congressional Bill in a few weeks. But now is the time for your community to be alerted and locate the key issue around which it can mobilize. Has a daycare center been closed for lack of funds? Has a major fire occurred with loss of life because of cuts in the fire department? Is there a failure in the transit system? Keep in mind we are not asking the government for their money—we are telling the government we want our money and we want it in our communities. Vigils, picket lines, sit-ins, public rallies, teach-ins and speak-outs are community needs—these are all approaches that can be used. And learn where your member of Congress has his or her office in your district—if your member of Congress is voting your tax money to subsidize the corporations at the cost of the community, let the community know it.

Finally, it is particularly important to channel local pressure toward the City Council and Mayor's office—in addition to public demonstration—and to ask and demand that elected officials defend the community by joining in suport of the transfer of military funds to civilian spending.

Starting on Easter Sunday, March 26, and running through to Sunday, April 2, the Mobilization for Survival is calling on every local group and key contact in America to mobilize public pressure to slash the military budget.

President Carter was elected on a pledge to cut that budget and he has already announced he will *sharply increase it*. This is a direct violation of a basic campaign pledge—the President has broken faith with the American people.

President Carter will have released the Fiscal Budget for 1979 (which runs from October 1, 1978 to September 30, 1979) by the time you get this issue of *WRL News*. In many areas of the nation local coalitions *have already met* and will have released statements to the press in response to the budget. If your community has not yet organized to fight the military budget, begin now to draw together key people.

January 20 - February 10: This is the time for building local coalitions to fight against increases in the military budget and to demand massive cuts in that budget. Begin immediately to build a "community resolution" campaign—a resolution you will ask your City Council to endorse, calling for support of the Transfer Amendment which is being introduced into the opening session of Congress.

The Transfer Amendment: While we do not yet have the number of the Congressional bill to transfer funds, we should understand what a "transfer amendment" is. It is a budget amendment that will be introduced early in the session and will call for *transferring* some billions of dollars *out of* the proposed military sector of the budget and *into* the civilian sector—i.e., housing, transportation, health, welfare.

Citizen's Action Sessions: Use the period from the middle of February right up to March 26th to organize cram sessions and educational events that will explain the economic disaster caused by steady increases in the military budgets and continuing slashes in social services. Where the cram sessions last fall focused on the arms race and on nuclear power, these cram sessions need to focus on economics, problems of conversion, and specific areas of human needs *in your community*. It is extremely important to involve trade unions, wherever this is possible—they are most concerned about the dangers of unemployment and need to be assured of our concern for full employment and plans for conversion of military industry to civilian production.

Human Needs—A Key Goal: The Mobilization for Survival, which WRL was instrumental in helping to organize, is based on four demands, (1) Zero Nuclear Weapons (2) Ban Nuclear Power (3) Stop the Arms Race (4) Fund Human Needs. SOC Week is our response to the human needs issue and does not relate in any deep way to disarmament—since even a cut of 25% to 50% in the military budget would still leave us able to destroy the planet. We are concerned, during SOC week, with *ending* the steady increase of the military budget, and *starting* to give human needs a high priority.

MARCH 26 TO APRIL 2—SOC WEEK—SOC IT TO THE MILITARY!

The pressures for increased military spending are enormous. The military wants new weapons systems. The corporations want "Cost-plus" contracts. The people who suffer from this kind of spending—the aged, the poor, the minorities—do not have lobbyists in Washington D.C. Starting on Easter Sunday, March 26th, make every effort to organize *majority support* for a cut in the military budget. Press the City Council and Mayor to speak out. Visit the Congressional office in your district—or demonstrate outside of it.

- **leaflet the public**
- **arrange cram sessions**
- **send delegations to the Mayor**
- **write letters-to-the-editor**
- **involve your church or union**
- **demonstrate**

Resources: Write the Mobilization for Survival (1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107) for an Organizer's Guide, button, poster, and flyer about Save Our Communities Week. Send $1 to cover costs.

David McReynolds is on the WRL national staff.

Southern Africa...
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representing church, community, campus, political and social justice constituencies. A sense of urgency prevailed throughout the discussion. All present felt the need to combine our energies, resources and ideas to concretize American peoples support for Southern Africa blacks and their white allies. Lack of tremendous visible groundswell of anger at Soweto and the Biko incidents illustrated the lack of "punch" in our various independent organizational campaigns. Soon, the discussion centered on what we as an ad-hoc grouping could do to (a) generate massive public awareness, indignation, and action towards affecting American government and corporate support of the minority oppressors of South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia, (b) demonstrate a peoples solidarity in a huge way to the oppressed of Southern Africa, and (c) energize the various campaigns underway to support the oppressed Southern African peoples.

David McReynolds, WRL staffer, and I then presented an idea espoused by Norma Becker, Chairperson of WRL—a large Political/Cultural event at Madison Square Garden. Norma in a prior WRL Steering Committee meeting reflected on the success of a previous Garden rally for Puerto Rican Independence, organized by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (USA).

In subsequent meetings, the coalition, now named the "Peoples Committee for the Freedom of Southern Africa," agreed to do the following:

(a) Produce a massive Madison Square Garden Rally in June 1978, hopefully near the Soweto Anniversary of 6/16/76.

(b) Politically there would be three demands raised by the rally:

1. End all U.S. government and corporate economic, military, athletic, cultural and political complicity with South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia.
2. Support the liberation movements in their struggle for legitimate Black Majority Rule.
3. Free all political prisoners in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Namibia and South Africa.

The Committee hopes to engage the widest possible peoples endorsement and involvement in this undertaking. The Committee will encourage companion rallies/actions in the Southern, Midwestern and Western regions of America. The international progressive community will also be requested to build events near the June, 1978 period to help produce a world-wide presence of solidarity with the oppressed majority peoples of Southern Africa, while further isolating the support of the racist apartheid regimes of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), South Africa, and Namibia.

The various legitimate liberation movements in Southern Africa—African People Conference (PAC), African National Congress (ANC), SouthWest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and the Patriotic Front—have waged a valiant effort over the long years to liberate their homelands. United Nations and Organization of African States recognition of these liberation groups as the legitimate spokespeople for the oppressed majorities of Southern Africa is simple testament to these group's efforts to provide alternative educational, economic, political and cultural leadership to their homeland people. That the liberation groups resort to violent acts depicts the absolute absence of channels for nonviolent resolution between them and the structure of the apartheid regimes.

If the American people make it politically inconvenient for our government to negotiate the Southern African people into a neo-colonialistic state, and economically disadvantageous for corporate America to underwrite the racist regimes while it economically exploits the working majority, Southern African apartheid will soon be a history book discussion. It's a discussion we should work for with all our energy.

William Douthard is a member of the WRL Executive Committee.

Puerto Rican Nationalists: WRL's Position

With the September/October issue of WRL News we sent a petition calling on Carter to release the five Puerto Rican nationalists still held in U.S. prisons for their part in violent attacks on government buildings in Washington D.C. in 1950 and 1954. With that petition we had sent a short mimeographed statement stressing that we do not support organized violence in any form, including revolutionary violence, but that on the basis that the men and women had served longer terms than if they had committed murder, they should be released.

We were surprised that several members wrote us, at least two resigning from WRL, because they felt the four nationalists still in prison (President Carter had released Andres Figueroa on October 6 because he was dying of cancer) should not be released, or because they felt we were giving an implicit endorsement of violence.

The Executive Committee of WRL states once more that the League does not support the use of organized violence in any form. But it is also concerned that public panic over the current, tragic wave of terrorism may cause us to forget both the facts in this particular case and our historic position. Again, we note that the four remaining in jail have served terms ranging from 23 to 26 years in federal prisons—terms that are, by any standards, excessive. Of course we are aware that none of the four has abandoned their commitment to Puerto Rican nationalism or (we assume) their willing-

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Southern Report

By David McReynolds

During the last two weeks of November I was on a speaking tour of the South. It was, I realized with an acute sense of time's passage, the first extended tour I'd made in the South since 1964. I had been in the South at times of tension, when Civil Rights and not Vietnam was the national focus. I was speaking at the University of Georgia that November day when Kennedy was assassinated, was arrested twice in North Carolina in 1964 (through no courageous act of mine—simply "accidents" that could then occur to people wandering too close to the scene of action), spoke at one of the first publicly integrated meetings in New Orleans, remember a meeting in Northern Florida which was called off because the meeting place had been burned down by the Klan the night before.

There was excitement and tension in the South then. And for me a personal feeling of defeat and depression because cowardice held me back from the Freedom Rides and the prison at Partchman, Mississippi. I make so personal an observation both to emphasize the existential, pre-Vietnam drama of the Southern struggle and, because it seems important that we understand, always, that while the pacifist movement has authentic heroes such as Jim Peck, it is largely built of very human clay. If we were all heroes we would not need one another.

To return, even for so brief a time as two weeks, was to visit one of the great nonviolent battlegrounds of this century, as it had been one of the great military battlegrounds of the last century. And to visit is to realize with pain how very little Americans understand of history, least of all our own. Already in major cities integration is accepted as if it had always been. Who now remembers Little Rock or Oxford? King, like all whose greatness threatens us with its challenge, is placed above and beyond us, as if he had preached some impossible ethic. We have forgotten it was an ethic he practiced in the streets and jails of Alabama and Georgia and Mississippi and Florida and in its name was murdered.

So the South is integrated. And it seemed to me that part of the slow, courteous grace and pace of Southern life has fallen victim to the new industrialization of the sun belt, with its military installations, its runaway shops from the North drawn by an unorganized and easily disciplined labor force. It is a South linked together by a chain of Col. Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonalds—that damned golden arch will replace the bald eagle as our national symbol.

But the South is alive and well. Anti-Nuke groups have sprung up everywhere, from the Oyster Shell Alliance in New Orleans, to the Catfish Alliance in Florida, to the Palmetto Alliance in South Carolina, to the Kudzu Alliance in North Carolina. There was, in Tallahassee, now only an active well-staffed feminist health center and the inevitable health food coop, but even a cooperative record store that undersold and outsold all the other record stores in town. And what a fascinating array of key contacts WRL has! In New Orleans it was a sister in a local Catholic order who housed and fed Diane Spaugh, Steve Sumerford and myself—and set up the meeting. In Celo, North Carolina, the key contact is a delightful man who knew A.J. Muste when A.J. was a Trotskyist and when he himself had just arrived from Europe as a young Marxist militant. In another town the contact was a devout young Quaker living on a farm, who had to take time to milk the goats before driving in

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ness to possible resort to violence. But prison does not change deeply held beliefs and to continue holding these men and women "until they repent" is, simply put, barbaric. On a practical level, the chance that any of the four, if released, would resort to another violent attack on the House of Representatives is much less than the chance that their continued imprisonment will trigger new acts of terrorism and violence by Puerto Ricans to whom these prisoners are authentic heroes. If the objective is to minimize violence, prison rarely achieves that objective and in this case is almost certain to defeat it.

But we also believe that WRL's long historic opposition to prisons in general and our identification with those who are imprisoned, makes it imperative that we join the Puerto Rican community in demanding the release of these prisoners, the longest-held political prisoners in the western hemisphere. And we use the term "political prisoners" with care—these men and women would have been released *if* they had agreed to sign parole papers giving up their right to speak and act politically. They remain in prison because they have refused to sign those papers.

To the charge that WRL had asked some special treatment for these prisoners because their crime was politically motivated, we simply point out that it was the U.S. government—not the WRL—which treated these men and women in a special way, meting out longer terms than if they had been involved in a routine criminal act which had brought injury but not death. (The only person killed in the violent assaults was Griselio Torresola, one of the nationalists.)

We have never forgotten and will not sanitize the power of that statement by Eugene Victor Debs: "While there is a working class, I am in it. While there is a criminal element, I am of it. While there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Southern Report continued from page 6

with us to the meeting—at which meeting he ceased being a shy farm boy and electrified me by reading a long, beautifully crafted poem about his experiences on the Japanese Peace Walk this past summer.

It was an awfully quick two weeks, from New Orleans (where someday I hope to see Mardi Gras) to Tallahassee, Atlanta, Koinonia Farms (with a quick stop at Plains, Ga.), Greensboro, Athens, Chapel Hill, Berea, Richmond, and finally back to Manhattan late in the afternoon of Thanksgiving.

I've left to the end the news *I* found most exciting. And that news is two people: Steve Sumerford and Diane Spaugh, the team that staffs the WRL Southeast Office in Chapel Hill. Steve was with me the whole two weeks, acting as driver and doing the organizing work while I gave the talks. Diane was with me only briefly in New Orleans and Tallahassee and then went back to keep the office running. Here are two natives of the region, well grounded not only in pacifist theory, but in the nuts and bolts of organizing, of knowing how to push literature, to collect names, to set up regional meetings.

Those of you in the South who haven't gotten in touch with Diane and Steve—shame on you! Those who still think the South can't be organized underestimate your own power—and the excellent prospects for making damn sure that just as the corporate and military structures have "united the South with the rest of America," so it is *long past time* for Northern pacifists to look South with humility. The greatest lessons in nonviolence in our nation's history came from the South. All of us can share the delight of knowing we have two key staff people working every day in this region. And those of you in the South East need to write—right now—to WRL Southeast, 108 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. They need your moral support—and you need their organizational skills.

David McReynolds also makes scented candles when he's not on tour.

A.J. MUSTE ON NUCLEAR WAR

February 11, 1978, will mark eleven years since A.J. Muste's death. Each year in the January-February issue, we have carried an item to remind readers of him. Since this year's main action project is Mobilization for Survival, one of whose four principle objectives is abolition of nuclear weapons, it is appropriate to quote A.J. on nuclear war:

"Nuclear war is politically irrational and morally an indefensible and hideous atrocity, whoever perpetrates it. Preparation for such war is also politically irrational, and since there is no guarantee that the preparation will lead to anything but war, the preparation itself is an atrocity and a degradation of mankind."

This quote is from THE ESSAYS OF A.J. MUSTE, available from WRL for $3.45. We also still have in stock LIBERATION Magazine's A.J. memorial issue (50¢) and OF HOLY DISOBEDIENCE, A.J.'s noted essay on civil disobedience (50¢).

Join Me at Rocky Flats April 28

By Jim Peck

I had heard about Rocky Flats, had read about it in WIN, but not until I went there on my recent speaking trip, did I fully realize what a prime atrocity that installation is. Located only a few miles from Denver, Rocky Flats is where the production of plutonium triggers for hydrogen bombs is completed—from 3 to 10 every day. The plutonium is shipped there from Hanford (Washington), Oak Ridge (Tennessee), and Savannah River (South Carolina).

Most recent revelation—admitted by plant officials—is that several samples of the new neutron bomb, later tested underground in Nevada, were produced there. If Carter decides to proceed with production of neutron bombs, they will be made at Rocky Flats.

I attended a meeting of the Rocky Flats Action Group at which the Call for Action was discussed. So, I am probably the first out-of-state person to volunteer for this national demonstration. There will be both legal action and civil disobedience.

That morning, I had spoken at the University of Colorado in Boulder, a meeting set up by Judy Hurley of the new WRL chapter there. The chapter at present is totally involved with the Mobilization for Survival program, of which the Rocky Flats action is a part. During this portion of my tour, I also spoke twice in Fort Collins where I discovered that the minister of the Unitarian Church is a man who was imprisoned with me in Danbury back in the early 1940s (Roy Jones). I had not seen him since Danbury.

The earlier segment of my speaking tour was in Michigan, where Steve McLuckie had set up engagements in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Pontiac, Rochester and Detroit. In Ann Arbor, I participated in a vigil in opposition to SEAFARER, a nuclear submarine control center planned in the Upper Michigan Peninsula. The vigil in Ann Arbor, and a similar one in Pontiac were in support of a demonstration by 12 Michigan people at the Pentagon, which wound up with their arrest. They had attempted to plant a "tree of life" on Pentagon property.

Between Michigan and Colorado, I stopped in Wilmington (Ohio) to speak to Larry Gara's class on nonviolence at Wilmington College. It was the second such class I addressed on the trip. The first was to Professor Cumbee's class at Oakland University in Rochester (Michigan).

Jim Peck is Editor of the WRL News.

Hiroshima Bombing Re-Enactment Cancelled

By Bobby Slovak

On September 29, the Confederate Air Force, an organization which restores World War II aircraft, cancelled its plans to re-enact the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at its annual "Air Show" in Texas. Pressure from individuals, organizations, and politicians forced the cancellation just one week prior to the show.

A 1976 Hiroshima reenactment and the planned 1977 one had been loudly protested by Japanese officials saying that the dramatization showed insensitivity to the victims and survivors of the bombings, and was an attempt to justify the use of nuclear weapons. In Texas, the newly-formed Texas Mobilization for Survival called for letters and phone calls of protest be directed to the CAF headquarters. Plans were made for a two-day protest at the show in Harlingen. Actions were to include vigiling, leafletting, and theater on the airfield to show the horrible effects of the dropping of the bombs. In addition to the Texas planning, WRL assured the Japanese that protest actions would be taken in the U.S., and the Fellowship of Reconciliation sent a letter of protest to U.N. ambassador Andrew Young and to the CAF.

The CAF decision not to carry out the reenactment came after the group's executive director had met with congressional, state, and defense department officials. In explaining their decision to cancel the dramatization, the CAF said: "The original program could have had an adverse effect on the U.S. defense negotiations now in progress in the Pacific."

What those negotiations entailed—more or less nukes—was not mentioned.

Bobby Slovak is an organizer and WRL National Committee member from Texas.

BARGAIN-REMAINDER

☐ **POLITICS PAST** by Dwight Macdonald, formerly published as Memoirs of a Revolutionist and including some of his most outstanding essays from POLITICS Magazine. Originally $2.75—now $1.50. 376pp.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the **War Resisters League.**

Signature .....

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339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

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DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE WRL, 2042 E. Virginia, Evansville, IN 47711 (no phone)

HAWAII WRL/cATHOLIC ACTION, 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 949-1210

MILWAUKEE WRL, 4711 Lisbon Ave., Miklwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 445-9736

OAK PARK WRL, 645 N. Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312) 386-0192

PHILADELPHIA WRL/WTR, 2016 Walnut, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 568-7971

ST. LOUIS WRL, 4556 A Oakland St., St. Louis, MO 63110 (314) 533-2234

SEATTLE WRL, 331 17 Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112 (206) 525-9486

TWIN CITIES WRL, c/o Northwest Pacifist, 1523 Portland Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612) 339-6499

WESTCHESTER WRL, 100 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 949-0088; 949-9577